Pakistani Army has also carried out certain troop readjustments on the Line of Control and some reserve formations have also been moved from their permanent locations closer to the Line of Control.

The Kargil misadventure by Pakistan resulted in a major defeat for that country, both on diplomatic and the military front. As a face saving measure, they have embarked upon a renewed campaign to step up militancy in J&K, to prove to the world that J&K continues to remain a "flash point" requiring intervention by the International community.

With the accession of Gen. Pervez Musharraf to the position of Chief Executive of Pakistan, Islamic fundamentalists have been given all the encouragement and support to step up terrorism in Kashmir in the name of "Jehad". This includes targetting of Police Personnel and Security Forces sympathisers, suicide attacks on Security Forces camps, minority killings and spreading terror through bomb attacks in public places. However, the Security Forces are adequately geared up to frustrate the designs of the terrorists.

A suicide bomber did attempt to enter the Badami Bagh Cantonment in Srinagar on 19 April, 2000. However, he could not succeed in his mission due to the alertness of the sentries and had to prematurely detonate the car bomb, thereby killing himself and injuring a few security personnel and civilians.

Briefings on developments take place from time to time. It would not be in public interest to divulge the details of such briefings.

Creation of Kalinga Regiment

5485. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether Government will consider to create the Kalinga regiment as there are regiments in the name of various States?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): The policy of the Government is not to raise any new regiment on the basis of a particular class, creed, community, religion or region, but to have an Army in which all Indians have representation.

Coir Products for Border Roads

5486. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have appointed any Committee to find out the possibility of using coir products for constructing border roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any report has been submitted so far in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) No such Committee has been formed. However, a trial for use of Coir geo-textile on an embankment under construction, near Silchar on NH 53, under Project Pushpak of Border Roads Organisation, is proposed to be conducted jointly by Coir Board and BRO. The performance of Coir geo-textile in stabilizing the slope during the trial will be studied by both the parties. The modalities are being worked out jointly by Coir Board and Border Roads Organisation.

Induction of AWACS

5487. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether IAF propose to purchase/obtain on lease two Russian A-50 Airborne Early Warning and Control Systems (AWACS); and

(b) if so, by when they are likely to be inducted?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The IAF has no plans to purchase or obtain two Russian AWACS on lease. However, one Russian AWACS A-50 aircraft was recently taken on lease for 30 days from Russia for demonstrations to provide hands on experience to IAF operators.

Employment of Retired Defence Personnel

5488. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large percentage of retired defence personnel are without employment after their retirement from the defence forces;

(b) whether Government have done any survey on how many retired and able defence personnel want to work and are unemployed;

(c) to what extent Government have failed to evolve adequate opportunities to rehabilitate retired personnel in some form of gainful employment;